

In re: Application of: HARTMANN et al.
Application No.: 09/990,718
Examiner: Nguyen, B. T. L.

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A lateral flow immunoassay device for identifying the presence of tissue from a particular species of billfish in a test sample, the device comprising a substrate onto which a billfish specific antigen-containing sample has been immobilized.

Claim 2. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a nitrocellulose membrane.

Claim 3. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a plastic-backed nitrocellulose membrane.

Claim 4. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a first end and a second end, the first end having thereon the immobilized billfish-specific antigen-containing sample, and the second end being adapted to receive a solution comprising an antibody that specifically binds the billfish-specific antigen.

Claim 5. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 4, wherein the solution further comprises at least a portion of the test sample.

Claim 6. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 1, wherein the billfish-specific antigen is a billfish serum albumin.

Claim 7. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 6, wherein the billfish serum albumin comprises sailfish serum albumin.

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Claim 8. (Cancelled).

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 4, wherein the solution is applied on the substrate.

Claim 11. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the antibody is specifically bound to the immobilized billfish specific antigen.

Claim 12. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 10, wherein the antibody is detectably labeled.

Claim 13. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 12, wherein the detectably labeled antibody is conjugated to a gold particle.

Claim 14. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 12, wherein the gold particle has a diameter of between 20-40 nm.

Claim 15. (Original) The immunoassay device of claim 1, wherein a non-billfish specific antigen has been immobilized on the substrate.

Claim 16. (Original) A kit for identifying the presence of tissue from a particular species of billfish in a test sample, the kit comprising:

a lateral flow immunoassay device comprising a substrate onto which a billfish-specific antigen-containing sample has been immobilized; and

a solution comprising an antibody that specifically binds the billfish-specific antigen.

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Claim 17. (Original) The kit of claim 16, wherein the billfish specific antigen is a billfish serum albumin.

Claim 18. (Original) The kit of claim 17, wherein the billfish serum albumin is selected from the group consisting of sailfish serum albumin; blue marlin serum albumin; and white marlin serum albumin.

Claim 19. (Original) The kit of claim 16, wherein the antibody is detectably labeled.

Claim 20. (Original) The kit of claim 19, wherein the detectably labeled antibody is conjugated to a gold particle.

Claim 21. (Original) The kit of claim 20, wherein the gold particle has a diameter of between 20-40 nm.

Claim 22. (Original) The kit of claim 16, wherein a non-billfish specific antigen has been immobilized on the substrate.

Claims 23-34. (Cancelled).